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## **Guide to the Fiona Pitt-Kethley Literary Papers, 1982-1993**

Accession number: 1993-0002R  
University Libraries  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Special Collections Library  
Rare Books and Manuscripts

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Pitt-Kethley, Fiona, 1954-  
**Title:** Fiona Pitt-Kethley Literary Papers, 1982-1993  
**Accession:** 1993-0002R  
**Extent:** 4 cubic feet  
**Language:** The collection is in English.  
**Repository:** Pennsylvania State University, University Libraries, Special Collections Library

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access**

Unrestricted access.

### **Preferred Citation**

Fiona Pitt-Kethley Literary Papers, 1982-1993, Accession 1993-0002R, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Special Collections Library, University Libraries, Pennsylvania State University.

### **Source of Acquisition**

Purchased from Bernard Stone, Turret Books, London, 1993.

### **Arrangement**

Organized into three series: Manuscripts, Correspondence, and Miscellaneous Materials. The manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by draft titles with books filed first, followed by separate poems. The correspondence is arranged chronologically.

### **Biographical Note**

Fiona Pitt-Kethley, born in Middlesex, England, is a British writer of books and poems on sex and travel.

Born 21 November 1954, in Edgware, Middlesex, England, Fiona Pitt-Kethley is the daughter of Rupert Singleton (a journalist) and Olive Banfield Pitt-Kethley (a civil servant). She attended Chelsea School of Art, and earned a B.A. (with honors) in 1976.

Fiona Pitt-Kethley told *Contemporary Authors*: "My work is largely satirical--attacking hypocrisy, cruelty, and exploitation in society. Many of my poems are about contemporary sexuality. I use explicit, everyday language. "As to my general aims, I would like to see poetry taken seriously as a profession. It certainly isn't in Britain at the moment. I am concerned with improving the rights of writers in general and women writers in particular. I have campaigned extensively against discrimination in poetry publishing and literary awards."

Her published works include books of poetry: *London* (privately printed, 1984); *Rome* (Mammon Press, 1985); *The Tower of Glass* (Mariscat Press, 1985); *Gesta* (Turret Books, 1986); *Sky Ray Lolly* (Chatto & Windus, 1986); *Private Parts* (Chatto & Windus, 1987); *Abacus* (Abacus, 1989). She has also published a travel book, *Journeys to the Underworld* (Chatto & Windus, 1988); and *The Perfect Man* (Abacus, 1989); *The Literary Companion to Sex: An Anthology of Prose and Poetry* (Random House, 1992); *Dogs* (Sinclair-Stevenson, 1993); *The Pan Principle* (Sinclair-Stevenson, 1994); and *Double Act* (Arcadia Books, 1996). Pitt-Kethley has also contributed--sometimes under the pseudonym Rupert Singleton--to periodicals, including *New Statesman* and *Independent*.

## Scope and Content

The collection contains Fiona Pitt-Kethley's manuscripts and drafts of her books and poems, and personal and business correspondence with her agent, Giles Gordon of Sheil Land Associates, and publishers Chatto & Windus, Peter Owen, and Sinclair-Stevenson, MacDonald & Co., among others. There is correspondence concerning her discrimination case against the Arts Council of Great Britain and her difficulties with Bloodaxe Books in getting her writings published. Most of her personal correspondence is greeting cards, Christmas cards, postcards, and a few letters. Includes manuscripts for *A Cure for Impotence*, *Journeys to the Underworld*, *The Literary Companion to Sex*, *London*, *The Maiden's Progress*, *Misfortunes of Nigel*, *The Perfect Man*, *Private Parts*, *Puppet Master*, *Rome*, *Sex and Suffering in Italy*, *Sky Ray Lolly*, and *Too Hot to Handle*. Also includes her travel itineraries, artist show invitations, and items from the Arts Council of Great Britain.

## Index Terms

These materials are indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the

Pennsylvania State University. Researchers wishing to find related materials should search the catalog under these index terms.

## **Corporate Subjects**

Bloodaxe Books

## **Topical Subjects**

Authors and publishers -- Great Britain

Erotic stories, English

Novelists, English -- Fiction

Poets, English -- Travel -- Italy -- 20th century

Reverse discrimination -- Great Britain

Voyages to the otherworld in literature

## **Geographic Subjects**

Italy -- Antiquities

Italy -- Description and travel

## **Correspondents**

Gordon, Giles, 1940-

Arts Council of Great Britain

Chatto & Windus (Firm)

MacDonald & Co.

Peter Owen (Firm)

Sheil Land Associates

Sinclair-Stevenson (Firm)

## **Form/Genre Terms**

Correspondence

Manuscripts for publication

Novels

Poems

Postcards

## Container List

### Manuscripts Series

Manuscripts, 1982-1993.

Most of the papers are typescript draft copies, some written on the back of old correspondence. Other papers include handwritten rough drafts.

Box 1

Folder 01

*A Cure for Impotence*, undated

Box 1

Folders 02-05

*Journeys to the Underworld*, undated

Box 1

Folders 06-11

*The Literary Companion to Sex*, undated

Box 1

Folders 12-16

*London*, undated

Box 1

Folder 17-22

*The Maiden's Progress*, undated

Box 2

Folders 01-04

*The Misfortunes of Nigel*, undated

Box 2

Folders 05-07

*The Perfect Man*, undated

Box 2

Folders 08-10

*Private Parts*, undated

Box 2

Folder 11

*Puppet Master*, undated

Box 2

Folders 12-13

*Rome*, undated

Box 2

Folders 14-17

*Sex and Suffering in Italy*, undated  
Box 2  
Folders 18-20  
*Sky Ray Lolly*, undated  
Box 2  
Folders 21-24  
*Too Hot to Handle*, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 01  
Miscellaneous poems, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 02  
Miscellaneous poems, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 03  
Tables of contents of books, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 04  
Miscellaneous book sections, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 05  
Articles, Typescripts, Rough Drafts, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 06  
Articles, Typescripts, Rough Drafts, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 07  
Articles, Typescripts, Rough Drafts, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 08  
Articles, Typescripts, Rough Drafts, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 09  
Articles and Altered Drafts, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 10  
Article: Arts Council Case, undated  
Box 3  
Folder 11  
Unpublished Article: "Sex and Suffering in Italy," undated

## **Correspondence Series**

Correspondence, 1982-1993.

Pitt-Kethley's correspondence is divided into sub-series, business and personal. The business correspondence, which is organized alphabetically by publisher, shows what kinds of transactions and flow of ideas occurred between Pitt-Kethley and various editors, agents, staff personnel, and financial officers. Publishers include Chatto & Windus, Peter Owen Ltd., and Sinclair-Stevenson. There is also much correspondence

between Pitt-Kethley and her agent, Giles Gordon of Sheil Land Associates. There is correspondence concerning her discrimination case against the Arts Council of Great Britain and her difficulties with Bloodaxe Books in getting her writings published. Most of her personal correspondence consists of greeting cards, Christmas cards, postcards, and a few letters from some individuals.

## **Business Correspondence**

Business correspondence, 1982-1993.

Box 3

Folder 12

Arts Council of Great Britain, 1984

Box 3

Folder 13

Discrimination Case Against Arts Council of Great Britain, 1987-1989

Box 3

Folder 14

Bales Tours Limited, 1987-1989

Box 3

Folder 15

Big Issue, The, 1992

Box 3

Folder 16

Bloodaxe Books, 1982-1983

Box 3

Folder 17

Bloodaxe Books, 1984

Box 3

Folder 18

Bodley Head, The, 1990-1992

Box 3

Folder 19

Bookmark, 1992

Box 3

Folder 20

British Broadcasting Corp., 1991-1992

Box 3

Folder 21

British School at Athens, 1991-1992

Box 3

Folder 22

Cape, Jonathan Ltd., 1990

Box 3

Folder 23

Celebrity Holidays & Travel, 1992

Box 3

Folder 24

Chatto & Windus--Robin Baillie, 1988

Box 3

Folder 25  
Chatto & Windus--Christine Carswell, 1988-1989  
Box 3  
Folder 26  
Chatto & Windus--Catherine Eccles, 1988-1989  
Box 3  
Folder 27  
Chatto & Windus--Anthony McConnell, 1988-1989  
Box 3  
Folder 28  
Chatto & Windus--Miscellaneous, 1987-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 29  
Chatto & Windus--Andrew Motion, 1984-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 30  
Chatto & Windus--Clive A. Ryder Runton, 1988  
Box 3  
Folder 31  
Chatto & Windus--Samuel Alison, 1988-1989  
Box 3  
Folder 32  
Chatto & Windus--Jeremy Seal, 1987-1991  
Box 3  
Folder 33  
Chrysalis Television, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 34  
Collins, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 35  
Cosmopolitan, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 36  
Cox, David, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 37  
Daily Mail, The, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 38  
Daily Telegraph, The, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 39  
Dorset County Council, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 40  
Dragon's World, Inc., 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 41

Edinburgh Book Festival, 1988-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 42  
Elle, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 43  
Faber & Faber, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 44  
Filmworks, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 45  
Mark Gerson Photographer, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 46  
Gollancz, Victor Ltd., 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 47  
*Good Housekeeping*, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 48  
*The Guardian*, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 49  
Harper Collins Publishers, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 50  
Harpers & Queen, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 51  
Harry Chambers/Peterloo Poets, 1983-1984  
Box 3  
Folder 52  
Hastings Cancer Help Centre, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 53  
Hastings Pier Preservation Society, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 54  
Hastings Trust, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 55  
Hay, George--Futures Consultant, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 56  
Heinemann-Mandarin, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 57  
*Homes & Gardens*, 1992

Box 3  
Folder 58  
Horovitz, Michael, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 59  
Hutchinson, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 60  
Iron Press, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 61  
Israel Government Tourist Service, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 62  
Japan Airlines, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 63  
Kilroy Programme Office, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 64  
Leicestershire County Council, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 65  
Literary Society, The, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 66  
Little, Brown, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 67  
*London Review of Books*, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 68  
MacDonald Group (Cardinal-Abacus), 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 69  
MacDonald Group (MacDonald), 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 70  
MacDonald Group, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 71  
Mail on Sunday, The, 1991-1992  
Box 3  
Folder 72  
Monday Literary Club, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 73  
*New Horizons*, 1991  
Box 3

Folder 74  
*New Woman*, 1989  
Box 3  
Folder 75  
Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1992  
Box 3  
Folder 76  
Netherlands Board of Tourism, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 77  
Nighthawks, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 78  
Northern & Shell, 1989-1991  
Box 3  
Folder 79  
Nottinghamshire County Council, 1991  
Box 3  
Folder 80  
*The Observer*, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 01  
Peter Owen Ltd.--Richard Bailey, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 02  
Peter Owen Ltd.--Tracy Beresford, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 03  
Peter Owen Ltd.--Miscellaneous, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 04  
Peter Owen Ltd.--Peter Owen, 1991-1993  
Box 4  
Folder 05  
Peter Owen Ltd.--S.E. Paine, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 06  
Peter Owen Ltd.--Gary Pulsifer, 1991-1993  
Box 4  
Folder 07  
Pan Books, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 08  
Panoptic, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 09  
Poetry Society, The, 1989-1991  
Box 4  
Folder 10

R & B Publishing, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 11  
Random House, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 12  
Royal National Theatre, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 13  
Royal Post Graduate Medical School, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 14  
St. Catherine's College, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 15  
Scotland on Sunday, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 16  
Sheil Land Associates--Giles Gordon, 1988-1990  
Box 4  
Folder 17  
Sheil Land Associates--Giles Gordon, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 18  
Sheil Land Associates--Giles Gordon, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 19  
Sheil Land Associates--Giles Gordon, 1993  
Box 4  
Folder 20  
Shiel Land Associates--Robert Kirby, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 21  
Shiel Land Associates--Miscellaneous, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 22  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Kate Collins, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 23  
Sinclair-Stevenson--John Lyon, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 24  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Emily Mallaby (Kerr), 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 25  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Angela Martin, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 26  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Miscellaneous, 1991-1992

Box 4  
Folder 27  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Rachel Peddie, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 28  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 29  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Sarah Smyth, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 30  
Sinclair-Stevenson--Michael Wood, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 31  
Society of Authors, 1983-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 32  
Southeast Arts, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 33  
Southern Publishing Co., 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 34  
University of Stirling, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 35  
*Sunday Express*, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 36  
*The Sunday Telegraph*, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 37  
*The Sunday Times*, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 38  
Sutton, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 39  
Tenemos, 1984-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 40  
*The Times*, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 41  
Topical Books, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 42  
Turkish Embassy Information Office, 1992  
Box 4

Folder 43  
Turret Books, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 44  
UCL Literary Society, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 45  
Uitgeverij De Arbeiderspers, 1990-1991  
Box 4  
Folder 46  
*Virago*, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 47  
*Vogue*, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 48  
Watermans, 1992  
Box 4  
Folder 49  
The James Whale Show, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 50  
*Woman's Journal*, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 51  
From Miscellaneous Companies, A-M, 1988-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 52  
From Miscellaneous Companies, N-Z, 1988-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 53  
Miscellaneous Editors, 1990-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 54  
Travel Editors, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 55  
Letters to the Editor, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 56  
Writing Grants & Awards, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 57  
Beakes, Fred--re: Rome, 1984  
Box 4  
Folder 58  
To *The Independent*--re: Pitt-Kethley's Comments on "Page 3 Girls," 1988  
Box 4  
Folder 59

Relating to Hugo's Reactions Prior to Publication of *Too Hot To Handle*, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 60  
Original Letters for Notes to *The Perfect Man*, 1986-1988  
Box 4  
Folder 61  
Statistics Compiled on Proportion of Women Published by British Publishers, 1982  
Box 4  
Folder 62  
Fax Activity Logs & Transmission Reports, 1991-1992

## **Personal Correspondence**

Personal correspondence, 1983-1993.  
Box 4  
Folder 63  
Frankel, Zygmunt, 1990-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 64  
Jesus College, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 65  
Sullivan, John, 1984-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 66  
To & From, A-L, 1989-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 67  
To & From, M-Z, 1989-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 68  
Letters to Pitt-Kethley, A-L, 1983-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 69  
Letters to Pitt-Kethley, M-Z, 1983-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 70  
Letters from Pitt-Kethley, 1983-1993  
Box 4  
Folder 71  
Greeting Cards, 1990-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 72  
Postcards, 1984-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 73  
Christmas Cards, 1990-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 74

Complaints, 1990-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 75  
Postcard Photocopies, 1991  
Box 4  
Folder 76  
Letters to Pitt-Kethley, 1991-1992

### **Miscellaneous Materials Series**

Miscellaneous materials, 1983-1992.  
The miscellaneous materials include her travel itineraries, artist-show invitations, and items from the Arts Council of Great Britain.  
Box 4  
Folder 77  
Arts Council of Great Britain, 1984  
Box 4  
Folder 78  
General Miscellaneous, 1983-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 79  
Itineraries, 1991-1992  
Box 4  
Folder 80  
Show Invitations, 1990-1992